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words, but I hoped that I had guarded against misconception, for I have not only discussed these words pretty fully on pp. 76-85, but have expressly stated that

"To pronounce such (that is, weak) words always in their emphatic forms would be very strong and unnatural, and quite contrary to the genius of our language. In fact no Englishman could do it."

P. 78; see also p. 106. But as children and beginners in phonetics find it extremely difficult to analyse whole sentences and to write down correctly the weak forms of variable words (pp. 107 f.) I aimed at a style of writing which they could adopt without attempting this analysis, by simply spelling one word at a time.

In French such a method of spelling would be practicable, and Mr. Paul Passy is responsible for the French specimens. In like manner, Prof. Vietor is answerable for the German, where he has introduced the glottal stops less regularly in the more colloquial passages.

That long 'æ' is often heard in English I cannot deny. Long wide 'o,' as in *dog*, is also not infrequent, but I think that both are inelegant and ought to be avoided.

Prof. Grandgent concludes that because I pronounce *fairest* like *aorist*, there is a strong glide before the 'r' in both cases. On the contrary, there is no appreciable glide in either. See pp. 59, 60. And in the same way I pronounce simple 'ɔ' and not 'ɔə' before 'r' followed by a vowel, as in *story*. *Transition* I pronounce not with 'z,' but with 's.'

LAURA SOAMES.

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TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LONG. NOTES.

SIRS:—I would remind Miss Soames that I objected, not to any "alleged stiffness" in her own pronunciation, nor even to the "more than stiff" English of her texts, but to the discrepancy between her English and French systems of notation. I cannot see why the argument she adduces for English does not apply with equal force to the other language. However, I do not think it worth while to discuss at greater length what seems to me to be, at the worst, a slight blemish in an excellent book.

C. H. GRANDGENT.

Cambridge, Mass.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—Rather extensive personal observation and the examination of a large number of catalogues for the studies pursued at different colleges, have led the writer to conclude that the study of the Romance languages and especially literatures, is much neglected if not lightly esteemed in many institutions. An investigation of the facts which should clearly set forth the condition (amount, character, etc., so far as possible) of the study of these idioms and the wider circulation of the same, would be interesting and instructive, and could not fail to do much toward correcting the want of appreciation in which these studies are held in certain parts of our country. It does not seem improbable that the chief cause of the wide-spread neglect of these subjects, is the result of ignorance of their real value as a means of discipline, and of the extent, wealth and charm of their literatures.

Students are often less to blame for their neglect of these subjects than are persons, who have the shaping of their courses of study before they reach the time when these idioms are taken up. A carefully prepared lecture by the professor of Romance languages, or some equally qualified person, giving general notions of the wealth of the Romance tongues and of the importance of the Latin races, might contribute to arouse an interest in students whose attention had not before been called to these studies. As one of the most reliable and helpful aids to a presentation of the subject in outline, will be found a series of books on 'Zeiten, Völker und Menschen,' von Karl Hillebrand (Strassburg, Verlag von Trübner). 'Frankreich und die Franzosen' is now before me, and has been found to be a mine of information and suggestion.

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BRIEF MENTION.

Part iv, Section i (*sār—swiðrian*) of the Bosworth-Toller 'Anglo-Saxon Dictionary' (Clarendon Press), just published, will disappoint students of Anglo-Saxon who have long